

Demographic changes in Eurasia during the period 1950–2050 according to the UN population estimates and projections

Abstract

The aim of this thesis is to find out if in post-Soviet countries at least partial convergence trends existed in the population development during the period of political co-existence, whether a differentiation of population development took place there and how these trends have continued in the last two decades. It answers the questions what was the population development of its republics, current independent states since 1950 and what the differences are after the collapse of the Soviet Union, while providing an overview of future population development in this area. The post-Soviet countries always very varied in the level of economic development and cultural diversity and therefore their population development has been significantly differentiated. Central Asia has traditionally been a region with high fertility levels and very high rates of infant mortality, while the west part of the former Soviet Union has been a territory with the lowest level of fertility which has been under the replacement level of fertility for a long period in this area and low infant mortality rate. The post-Soviet countries of the Western Asia have been placed with its population development between Central Asia and European post-soviet countries. Central Asia had the very young age structure in the past and still has it due to the high proportion of children and low proportion of elderly; west part of the former Soviet Union is an area, which is demographically older. The population of the countries of the Caucasus is approaching west part of the former Soviet Union in population ageing in past two decades.

Keywords: post-Soviet countries, Central Asia, Caucasus, European post-soviet countries, age composition, mortality, fertility, future population development